

**House Federal Relations, Energy & Telecommunications Committee
Testimony on SB 233 – Generally Revise Environmental Impact Laws
March 9, 2011**

Mister Chairman and members of the committee. My name is Gayle Joslin, past resident of Libby, Montana, now living in Jefferson County.

We don't have to speculate what "Life without MEPA" would look like. It is right here IN today's newspaper.

I draw your attention to today's *Independent Record* that reports on the tragic case of Libby, Montana (*Independent Record* March 9, 2011, page 6A).

Mind you, the W. R. Grace Co. project in Libby did not go through the MEPA process.

More than one governor and a number of state regulators, took a walk on their duties when they were supposed to be overseeing this Libby project. Instead, hundreds of people died and more than 1,100 others are currently sick.

NOW, the state of Montana is settling this case for \$43 million (which is on the cheap) – but we, the tax payers are on the hook.

SB 233 will pave the way for potential "Libbys" all across Montana to occur over and over again.

This tragic story alone screams for regulatory justice. SB 233 is nothing more than an invitation to repeat a tragic error. Please vote for justice – Vote NO on SB 233.